

**MEETING MINUTES
VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015
10:00 AM
LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

Council members in attendance:

- Maxine Cowton, Chair
- Dr. Kathleen O'Malley
- Jennifer Rhea
- James Souter
- Officer Carmelita Michaud
- Paul Watson
- Joan Wierzba

Absent:

- Officer John Burley
- Officer Jerome Armijo

Consultants:

- Sgt. Kenneth Johnston, APD consultant
- Diane Grover, CABQ Contract Facilitator

Resource persons:

- Celina Espinosa, APD, Communications and Community Outreach Director

Community members:

- There were 6 community members present at the meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. noting that a quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

- Committee members, consultants, resource persons and citizens/community Representatives made their introductions.

CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS:

None noted

1. Approval of May 20, 2015, meeting minutes

Motion: Ms. Wierzba moved to approve the May 20, 2015, minutes; Dr. O'Malley seconded and all approved by voice vote.

2. Approval of June 17, 2015, meeting agenda

Motion: Ms. Rhea moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Wierzba seconded and all approved by voice vote.

3. Committee Reports
 - a. PSAs

Sgt. Johnston requests volunteers for this committee and asked those interested to see him after the meeting. Councilor Rhea volunteered.

- b. APD/APS Curriculum:

Councilor Rhea had nothing to report at this time

4. APD Officers' Reports

Sgt. Johnston advised that the web site had crashed and he pulled up some information from another system with limited search ability. Armed robberies in the area are lower than normal; batteries are up; shoplifting a big concern; copper theft is through the roof; there is a problem with squatting in warehouses; there are an abundance of homeless in the Alvarado transportation center, which could cause Amtrak and Greyhound to pull out. Officers are trying to get folks through available programs and creative ways to do this is the first priority. They are trying to solve the problem rather than arrest folks and intensify the problem.

5. Council Dialogue on Issues and Concerns
 - a. Follow-up report on Dragon Dictate: Councilor Souter

To date there has been no response from the IT department.

- b. Homeless Population: Councilor O'Malley

Councilor O'Malley had questions and concerns about U-Visas, which are given to immigrants including un-documented immigrants who have been the subject of a crime. In order to obtain a U-Visa they need a certified letter written by an officer at the scene or someone up the chain of command. Ms. Espinoza stated that any department can issue a U-Visa, i.e. one can be issued in Albuquerque for a crime in Valencia. She said the goal is to give people the ability to stay in the country while involved in an investigation. At this time the chief hasn't signed any because the

process needs some work. There will be a meeting next week to address the APD process, and Celina will advise us on this at our next meeting.

c. Mental Health: Proposed ¼% allocation for Mental Health tax

Mr. Souter stated that this will generate \$14 million in the County and \$20 million in the City. They are currently looking for federal matching funds to set up a triage center like Tucson so police can get out of the mental health business.

d. Community Outreach

Councilor Souter emailed contacts for all 37 neighborhood organizations inviting them to the Valley CPC meetings.

6. Citizen Comments

One citizen expressed distaste for Santa Fe Recruitment efforts that stress SWAT officers and paramilitary efforts which seems to support a vigilante approach to law enforcement.

Another citizen discussed the public safety partnership committee mentioned on the City web site at cabq/police/ourdepartment/message from chief.

7. Old Business

None noted

8. New Business

Motion: Councilor Rhea moved that Paul Watson be provisionally accepted by the council unless we hear differently from APD, since we have been unable to get answers on outstanding applicants; Councilor Wierzba seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Paul Watson – Max sent email to City Atty about application process.

Jen moved that Paul be provisionally accepted by cancel unless Joan seconds all in favor.

Stephanie Lopez, President of the Albuquerque Police Officer's Association (APOA) gave a short presentation on the non-profit organization, which serves as a voice for the rank and file. They speak for officers who cannot go on camera and deal with issues of working conditions, family issues, educational assistance and benevolence. They help officers injured in the line of duty and offer support. They coordinate issues between the DOJ and the City and now have a seat at the table on DOJ

meetings with the City. One of their biggest concerns is the lack of support from City Administration.

Attrition is a big concern in conjunction with the current staffing crisis. Competitive salaries are also a concern. New officers make \$26.44/hour; as do 20 year officers as a rule. There is currently no longevity pay.

Last year there were 518,000 calls for service with 195 use of force incidents (which would be any force – hand to hand on up); there is a crime here every 14 minutes. Officers do not feel supported by the City or the media.

Stephanie can be reached at 366-7293 and apdunionpresident@gmail.com

Council Chair Max Cowton handed out a list of items to be considered by the CPC Council for the development of a rules and procedures document. The list should be expanded to assure our working papers are relative and in order. Each Council member is requested to give his/her opinion on each item The Northwest Area Command CPC has already developed their paper A Committee will be appointed ASAP.

Councilor Souter suggested that the Valley CPC meetings might be better attended if they were held in the evenings. He suggested Thursdays at 6:00. No action was taken on this.

All if well except page 4---paragraph beginning "Council Chair Max. . .

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 by voice vote.

Action Items:

- Celina Espinoza will report back at our next meeting on what took place at the U-Visa meeting